

97-84059-2

Appleton, William
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To live, the world must
produce more and talk

[n.p.]

[1919]

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To live, the world must produce more and talk
less; production, not phrases, are needed in
the crucial times of international unrest, by
W. A. Appleton ...
p. 31-32. 23 cm.

At head of title: Reprint from Printers' ink,
Sept. 4, 1919.
Caption title.

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TO EVERY man interested in a sensible return to sane relations between employer and employed without class prejudice, I earnestly recommend a careful reading of the within article by W. A. Appleton, President of the International Federation of Trade Unions, reprinted from Printers' Ink.

DORR E. FELT,
President Felt & Tarrant Mfg. Co.
Chicago.

To Live, the World Must Produce More and Talk Less

Production, Not Phrases, Are Needed in the Crucial Times of International Unrest

➤ By W. A. Appleton

President, International Federation of Trade Unions.

[EDITORIAL NOTE: The following statement by the man who was recently elected at Amsterdam, President of the world's Federation of Trade Unions, is of the greatest significance at the present time. Mr. Appleton points out that phrases and catch-words are everywhere taking the place of production. Unless the world produces it cannot live. While the statement is made in regard to conditions in England it applies everywhere, and PRINTERS' INK is glad to present it to its readers through the courtesy of the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy.]

THE tragedy which threatens to overwhelm Britain proceeds in regular fashion. Gradually, but definitely, is unfolded the plot to bring misery upon the people in the expectation that misery may advance revolution and exalt the demagogues who would become autocrats. There has been the battle of phrases, the avalanche of promises, and the sapping of moral fibre. To-day there is the game of tactics between the revolutionaries who control the Miners' Federation and the Railway Workers' Organization. To-morrow one may confidently anticipate the outbreak.

Circumstances follow each other with the regularity, though not the harmony, of a musical cadence. There has been preparation, now there is percussion, and to-morrow there will be resolution and revolution that may involve dissolution of the British Empire.

In the battle of phrases, even the Government has joined. It has seen salvation in nineness for fourpence, in acceptance of the demand that workers should be remunerated according to their desires, instead of according to their earning capacities, in the resuscitation of the discredited labor laws and conditions of Edward III. It has permitted and does permit fraud in high and low

places to go unpunished or under punished.

The Government is at a disadvantage in the battle of words and promises. It is expected to make good its utterances and fulfil its promises. This involves expense, and in endeavoring to raise the money with which to meet expenses, the Government incurs opposition and unpopularity. So far it has met the situation by more words and more promises, and by the creation of an administrative machine which it estimates will, this year, cost one hundred and sixteen and a half millions! It has so far found no method of turning the developing tragedy into a drama with a happy ending. It has still no ascertainable policy.

TEACHINGS OF ECONOMICS IGNORED

A few weeks ago an eminent Polish statesman asked me whether the men who formed the British Government had read history or studied economics. I hastened to assure him that most of them had passed through the public schools and the universities, and that, presumably, they were conversant with both subjects. "Then why in the name of greatness do they ignore the teachings of history and economics in their treatment of internal politics?" The answer to the supplemental question I was unable to give, and yet I do not know whether it is ignorance or incapacity or fear which prevents the promulgation and enforcement of a policy aimed at conserving the real interests of the Empire.

The few men who frighten the Government and mislead labor and through Labor the whole Empire, start their campaign with many advantages. They have, in the main, to deal with an unthink-

ing proletariat. They may enrich their promises with rhetoric's choicest ornaments; they may build not castles in Spain, but Empires on formulae. They have no responsibility. They usually suffer from moral obliquity and constructive paralysis. To demand rather than to provide is their metier. The consequences of these demands are either beyond their intelligence or without influence upon their consciences. They will cheerfully adopt and promulgate every panacea of the ancients or the moderns, and just as cheerfully discard and forget them. Whoever dies they live; whoever fails they are triumphant.

It is no use analyzing intentions. A nation faced with strangulation can only deal with effects and the effects of the propaganda which these revolutionaries have fathered are culminating in disaster.

THE PERIL TO THE WORLD

The friends of the men really responsible for the troubles in the mines and on the railways and in the docks may argue that all of them are altruists, but to the average man it seems very much as if their altruism was for abroad and not for home. Whatever their intentions, the fact remains that they have brought English industry into perilous circumstances and British workmen to the certainty of grave suffering and possibly starvation.

Faced with a restriction of output of coal and an inefficient and costly system of railways, faced daily with sporadic strikes, what will the Government do? What will the nation do? The answer to the first question is easier to find than that of the second. The Government will do what it has been doing since Mr. Asquith gave his fatuous advice to follow prices with wages. It will temporize in the Micawbean hope of something turning up.

Salvation lies now, as always, with the nation. Upon the manner in which it faces the situation everything depends. Each individual must accept his own share

of responsibility and perform his own task.

The flooding of mines and the cessation of work on railways destroys wealth and rots food. It is useless to talk of taxing wealth which chicanery and folly have destroyed, or of enjoying food which unreasoning railway men have left to perish. Every man and woman and child in Britain will have to pay for the past and current week's follies, and the poorest will pay most, because they will pay in actual suffering, while the well paid will only incur the disadvantages of strained circumstances.

It is up to the individual to study for himself the economic situation and to act accordingly. He must learn to appreciate for himself the significance of imports £1,319,338,591, and exports £498,473,065. In effect this means that as a nation we are spending one shilling and three halfpence and earning a little less than fivepence. Our re-exports, too, have fallen from £111,737,691 in 1912, to £31,956,029 in 1918. And that in spite of existing inflated values.

These figures are like the pulse of the national life. They indicate grave derangements and almost certain catastrophe.

The State is often described as a ship. To-day the ship is on a lee shore, and all hands must work at maximum speed if she is to be saved from utter wreck.

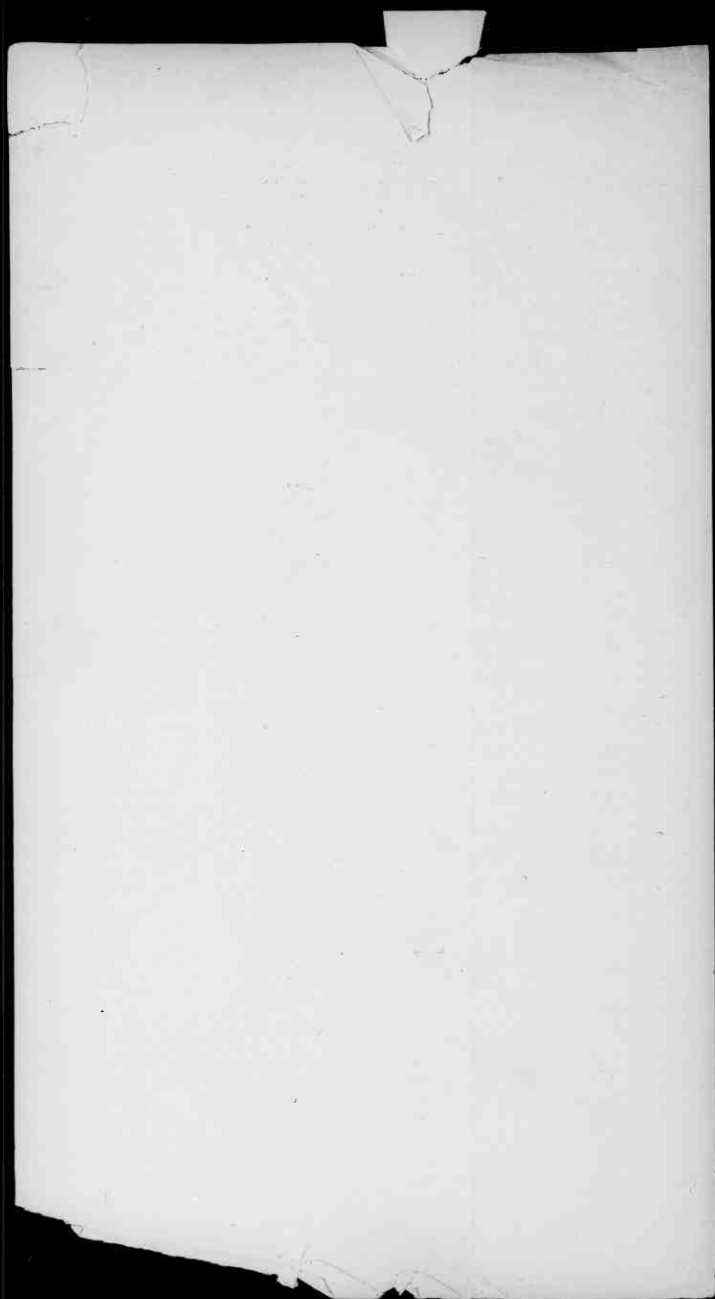
G. R. Holmes Now
Thomas A. Edison

George R. Holmes, former editor of the *Electrician*, New York, and lately discharged from the naval service as director of publicity for the New York Police Air Service, tenant in that organization made a member of the advance publicity departments of A. Edison, Inc., Orange

Watts Is With
Studi

C. J. Watts, who has been the copy writer for the Green, Fulton, Cunniff, Detroit, since the time charged from the army by Meininger Studios, J

10 April, 1920 - CRW



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